

5 January 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Procedures for the Development and Forwarding of Coordinated Intelligence Support to DoD/Intelligence Community Net Assessments

1. This memorandum sets forth the general procedures for use within the Intelligence Community for the conduct of net assessments with the Department of Defense (DoD), to include the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Military Net Assessment. It details how the Intelligence Community shall provide coordinated intelligence representing the best views of the Community to the net assessment process.

2. The Intelligence Community shall have an equal role with the DoD in the establishment of requirements for and the parameters of net assessments, and shall have the right to present independent conclusions based on its review of the results. The DoD or the JCS shall normally have the lead, however, in the actual preparation of all net assessments. A proposal to participate in a net assessment will follow the same approval procedure as other interagency intelligence products. Approved net assessments will be reflected on the annual interagency production plan.

3. The National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces (NIO/GPF) has been designated by the Director of Central Intelligence as the coordinator within the Intelligence Community for all net assessments, and is the point of contact between the Intelligence Community and the DoD or JCS for all matters relating to the conduct of net assessments.

4. The NIO/GPF will designate a primary action agent within the Intelligence Community for each net assessment. This action agent will be responsible for reviewing the parameters of the proposed net assessment and preparing a plan for the provision of coordinated intelligence support during the assessment and for the preparation of draft intelligence support according to the plan. The NIO/GPF will coordinate an Intelligence Community review of the assessment parameters and the intelligence support plan. Within the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the J8 is responsible for the conduct of net assessments and shall act in matters relating to the coordination of intelligence support requirements. The DoD/JCS will normally forward all intelligence support requirements, in writing to the action agent, copy to NIO/GPF.

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5. All intelligence input to net assessments is subject to Community coordination prior to forwarding to the DoD/JCS. Coordination will normally be conducted in the same manner as for National Intelligence Estimates (NIEs), including the articulation of disparate views that may have potential for impact on the net assessment process. Where the intelligence input is essentially from approved sources or has been previously coordinated, e.g., NIEs and Community data bases, etc., phone coordination may suffice. However, where the intelligence input is new or comprises material at variance with earlier Community views, coordination shall be conducted by a working group consisting of representatives of all interested members of the Intelligence Community. The working group shall be chaired by the NIO/GPF or his representative.

6. To expedite the coordination process, i.e., to resolve differences prior to coordination, the designated action agent is strongly encouraged to involve other agencies of the Intelligence Community in the development of the draft intelligence input. Upon completion of coordination, the NIO/GPF will forward the intelligence input to the DoD/JCS unless he or an NFIB principal requests that prior formal approval be obtained from NFIB.

7. An exception to the normal process may occur in those net assessments which require continuous intelligence input, e.g., a cell playing Red Forces in an interactive simulation. In these instances, the designated action agent shall establish a steering group which meets as necessary to provide coordinated guidance. Membership of the steering group shall include representatives from all interested agencies within the Intelligence Community.

8. During the net assessment process, the DoD/JCS shall insure that the Intelligence Community is kept apprised of progress and shall also provide copies of all written assessments for review and comment prior to publication. The NIO/GPF shall coordinate that review and comment process for the Intelligence Community in the same manner as was the input. The scope of Community review and comment is not limited, and shall, at a minimum, address interpretation and use of the intelligence input within the assessment process as well as appropriateness of the assessment's conclusions from an intelligence perspective.

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General Purpose Forces

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